

**Leon County  
Elder Ready Community Project  
Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation  
Status Report  
October 2002—April 2003**

**GOAL**

Through the Elder Ready Community Project, the Leon County Coordinator for Senior Services will promote and improve Leon County's services to seniors and their caregivers in a variety of essential and quality of life projects, services, and programs.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

◆ **Elder Ready Community (ERC) Project**

- Serve on local Housing groups to explore additional affordable senior housing.
- Coordinated Tallahassee—Leon County (T-LC) ERC Transportation Services team and published initial assessment in *Tallahassee Democrat* Active Living magazine
- Coordinated T-LC ERC Medical Services team and published initial assessment in *Tallahassee Democrat* Active Living magazine
- Hired Senior Services Coordinator to focus on ERC Project in County unincorporated areas and work with joint T-LC project.
- Co-coordinated T-LC ERC Non-medical and Social Services team and published initial assessment in *Tallahassee Democrat* Active Living magazine.
- Coordinating ERC exhibits for Fourth Annual Active Living Senior Expo to be held May 16 at Tallahassee Community College.
- ERC Coordinator met with or contacted for future meetings, the following County staff to begin understanding what County services are available to seniors.
  - ★ Helen Moeller, Leon County Library
  - ★ Rex Davie, Leon County Sheriff's Office
  - ★ Betty Miller, Leon County Extension Office
  - ★ Lena Price, Leon County Affordable Housing Division
  - ★ Roseann Scheck, Leon County Health Department
  - ★ Jeri Bush, Leon County Volunteer Services
- ERC Coordinator conducting research on model programs and potential funding sources, specifically for rural senior services.

◆ **Leon County Community Centers Contacts** to facilitate and coordinate senior programs at County recreational and community centers.

- ERC Coordinator visited the Chaires/Capitola Community Center, Ft. Braden Community Center, and spoke with a board member from the Miccosukee Community Center. The contacts from all three centers seem receptive and excited about the possibility of senior programming in their centers.
- ERC Coordinator is talking with Andrea Bird regarding the logistics for providing senior programs in the centers.
- Tallahassee Senior Center LIFE Exercise instructor is available and interested in teaching at the Chaires/Capitola Community Center as soon as facility details can be worked out.

◆ **Caregiver Respite Services**

- Established Cooperative Agreement between Alzheimer's Project of Tallahassee (APT) and the TSC Foundation to provide additional respite and volunteer services for caregivers in the Tallahassee-Leon County community.

- APT has trained an additional 18 volunteers since January. The quarterly training was held at the Tallahassee Senior Center.
- Tallahassee Senior Services Health Program Coordinator conducted "Brain Gym" at the APT Support Group meeting in March.
- ◆ **Public Awareness and Community Outreach**
  - Published article in National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) Voice nationally distributed newsletter crediting Leon County Commission grant to expand ERC Project.
  - ERC Bulletin Board page in Active Living magazines
    - ★ "County Commissioners Offer More Senior Support," November 2002
    - ★ "Alzheimer's Project to Expand Respite Services," January 2003
    - ★ "New ERC Coordinator to Focus on County Services," January 2003
    - ★ "City and County Offer Variety of Housing Improvement Options," January 2003
    - ★ "Alzheimer's Project of Tallahassee," March 2003
  - Currently designing informational brochure to publicize the ERC Project.
  - Compiling display board for community outreach events.
  - First Presbyterian Community Resource Day.
  - Big Bend Capital Coalition on Aging meetings.
- ◆ **Training**
  - Universal Housing presentation in Gainesville
  - Adaptive Housing and Learning Programs for Seniors sponsored by the Leon County Extension office
  - Florida Alzheimer's Summit sponsored by Rep. Johnnie Byrd
- ◆ **City of Tallahassee Support**
  - Provides office space in the Tallahassee Senior Center, the focal point in the Tallahassee-Leon County community for seniors and their caregivers.
  - Provides Internet access to City computer services.
  - Provides use of phone service.
  - Senior Services Coordinator represents ERC County project at Senior Citizens Advisory Council.
  - Individual recommended by Leon County Commission elected to TSC Foundation Board of Directors.
  - City of Tallahassee Senior Services staff and TSC Foundation staff, including the ERC Coordinator hired by the Leon County grant work cooperatively with each other to ensure coordination of projects and maximize senior services.
- ◆ **Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation Support**
  - Provides experienced administration and supervision of the Leon County-funded position and oversight of the T-LC ERC Project.

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